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THE 1948 INCREASE IN PEAT-PRODUCTION MECHANIZATION

Considerable progress was made in mechanizing the labor processes in peat production during 1948. Various phases in the production of machine-cut peat (frezernyy) were mechanized through the use of machines to be described below:

The FD-4 drum-milling machine was utilized to cut peat deposits. Special VMF-2 forks were used to accelerate the drying of small pieces of peat. The VUF-2 manually controlled roller gathered dry peat in drums, and the UMF-4 machine collected peat from the drums and transported it to the place where it was to be spread out in heaps. Here the OF-3 machine piled up the peat in a series of heaps.

In the production of hydropeat, the TPD-2 and the TPD-4 high-pressure peat pumps and the TN-2 peat pump were used extensively during 1948. They greatly reduced the consumption of electricity per ton of peat produced. The FG-3 caterpillar-tracked molding machine was used in large numbers during the 1948 season. The UMK machine with tractor-drawn trains and PK-2 cranes was used to gather the peat into a series of heaps, and a large number of TUM-3 machines were used to pile it in huge stacks. In October 1948 the DDM-5 disc-draining machine drained 5,162 hectares. Drainage of hydropeat fields hastens the drying of peat, improves the coefficient of field exploitation, and creates favorable conditions for carrying out mechanized drying and gathering of lump peat. Numerous TE-2 excavators have been used to dig trenches for drying purposes. In November 1948 318,000 cubic meters were dug by these excavators. The TSM-4 rollers have been used successfully for leveling fields. The PK-2 crane is used extensively in peat enterprises for loading peat from heaps onto narrow-gauge railroad cars. These cars are moved by electrically driven tractors.

The plan for mechanizing the production of machine-cut peat was fulfilled 106.8 percent in 1948, and 685,000 tons of peat were produced. Mechanization is to be three times as great in 1949, including the complete mechanization of a number of enterprises.

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During the first 3 years of the postwar Five-Year Plan the quality of peat produced was improved. Taking the average moisture content of hydropeat furnished to electric power plants in 1946 to be 39.1 percent, this was reduced to 38.2 percent in 1947 and to 36.1 percent during the first 9 months of 1948.

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